Delivery of the Solar and Energy Efficiency Project's IT system

The delivery of the IT has experienced delays with the notification to cease all work in schools due to concerns raised with ACM and LDB until testing can be completed on all sites. A testing program is now underway to test all schools where solar has been installed so that a delivery scheduled can be redeveloped. This will cause a delay in schools receiving the hot-e device which allows for the reading of the solar generation and provides input to the IT system for each school. While it is being continually monitored and assessed, the current position and advice from contractors is that they should be able to meet the timeline of June 2011 for the completion of the IT implementation program.

iWeb Solutions Pty Ltd is providing services for the IT component which includes the software, hosting of the web services and management of the installation of smart meters into schools.

Metering Dynamics have been contracted to deliver the smart meters. They will operate independently as the smart meters are installed in the main switchboard and do not require the services provided by other contractors. This work will be undertaken on behalf of Metering Dynamics by Ergon or Energex. Metering Dynamics have been instructed to make contact with each school in relation to the delivery of the smart meters.

Heggies Pty Ltd have been engaged to undertake any inspections and – if necessary - testing required for identification of Low Density Board (LDB) in cabling routes. Heggies Pty Ltd are to contact the school directly to coordinate appropriate times to visit each site.

Cabling and installation of hardware (hot-e) required for the IT package will be delivered under the department's standard PSA - 100301. Generation-E Pty Ltd was successful in tendering for the installation of the hardware for the Solar Schools Program. Generation-E will be liaising with each school in relation to the delivery of the IT hardware. This will involve a site visit to identify a cabling route (unless a building is built-post 1990 and therefore is confirmed as not having ACM) and a later installation date.

When all the components of the IT system have been installed schools will be able to reflect on their energy efficiency by accessing the http://www.eq.solarschools.net site. This site provides information including graphs which display the energy generated from each school's solar panels and also the amount of power used by the school from the electricity grid. It is anticipated that this information will encourage behaviour change further reducing the schools ecological footprint.

Training is being provided by iWeb Solutions and is in the early phase of implementation at present as the Instruction Manual has recently been approved by DET and will be published on http://www.eq.solarschools.net

Curriculum has resources for teaching at all levels available on the internet site – the Learning Place. A specific year 7 energy module is available online and a year 9 science module targeting energy use is due for release in December 2010. A range of reports is also available through http://www.eq.solarschools.net to assist schools with curriculum.

If you require further information on Electricity Accounts and Solar Generation please review the Information Sheet for the Solar and Energy Efficiency in State School Program which is available at http://education.qld.gov.au/facilities/solar/pdfs/electricity-solar-is.pdf

Further information on the delivery of the IT system can be obtained from Cicely Milne, Project Manager IT, Solar and Energy Efficiency Program on telephone (07) 3239 0795, email cicely.milne@deta.qld.gov.au or Val Sampson Program Manager, Solar and Energy Efficiency Program on (07) 3247 3938, email val.sampson@deta.qld.gov.au